

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations  
and is not a part of the Official Record

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

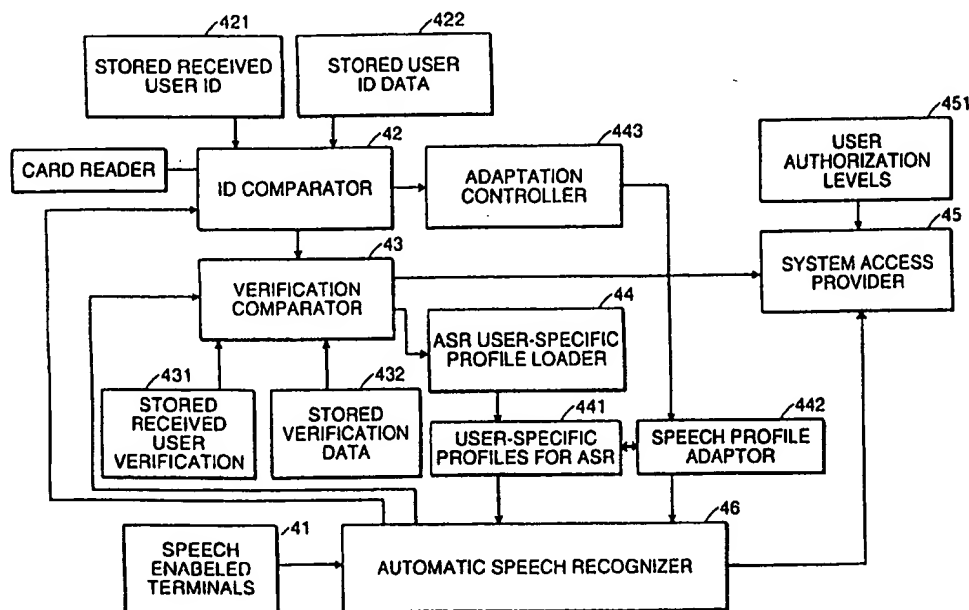
**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,  
please do not report the images to the  
Image Problem Mailbox.**



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> : G06F 1/00, 3/16, G10L 5/06	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/00719 (43) International Publication Date: 7 January 1999 (07.01.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/IB98/01110 (22) International Filing Date: 25 June 1998 (25.06.98)  (30) Priority Data: 60/051,025          27 June 1997 (27.06.97)          US  (71) Applicant: LERNOUT & HAUSPIE SPEECH PRODUCTS N.V. [BE/BE]; Sint-Krispijnstaat 7, B-8900 Ieper (BE).  (72) Inventors: VAN COMPERNOLLE, Dirk; Nijvelsebaan 181, B-3060 Korbeek-Dijle (BE). GARLICK, Scott; Rue Auguste Seressia284, B-5300 Landenne S/M (BE).  (74) Agent: FROUD, Clive; Elkington and Fife, Prospect House, 8 Pembroke Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1XR (GB).		(81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.          Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

(54) Title: ACCESS-CONTROLLED COMPUTER SYSTEM WITH AUTOMATIC SPEECH RECOGNITION



## (57) Abstract

An access control system for a computer system uses text inputs derived from automatic recognition of spoken inputs to provide computing access to authorized users. A plurality of speech-enabled terminals each receive speech from a user. An automatic speech recognizer derives text from speech provided by the specific user at a given one of the speech-enabled terminals. An identification comparator compares a non-keyboard user identification provided by a specific user with data stored in a user identification data base to determine if the specific user is an authorized user. A profile loader is provided to load a user-specific profile pertinent to the specific user into the automatic speech recognizer; and, finally, a system access provider.

*FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY*

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece			TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	ML	Mali	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MN	Mongolia	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MR	Mauritania	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MW	Malawi	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	MX	Mexico	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NE	Niger	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NL	Netherlands	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NO	Norway	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	NZ	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon		Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CN	China	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	KZ	Kazakstan	RO	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
EE	Estonia	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		

## ACCESS-CONTROLLED COMPUTER SYSTEM WITH AUTOMATIC SPEECH RECOGNITION

5

### Technical Field

The present invention relates to access-controlled computer systems, and more particularly to such systems with automatic speech recognition.

10

### Summary of the Invention

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a computer system for operation based on text inputs derived from automatic recognition of speech of a plurality of users providing spoken inputs. In this embodiment the system has a plurality of speech-  
15 enabled terminals, each terminal for receiving speech from a user. An identification comparator compares a non-keyboard user identification provided by a specific user with data stored in a user identification data base to determine if the specific user is an authorized user. Additionally, an automatic speech recognizer derives text from speech provided by the specific  
20 user at a given one of the speech-enabled terminals. A profile loader is provided to load a user-specific profile pertinent to the specific user into the automatic speech recognizer; and, finally, a system access provider provides computing access to the specific user if determined to be authorized by the identification comparator.

25 In further embodiments, the non-keyboard user identification is spoken by the specific user or alternatively contained in a digitally encoded card presented by the specific user. When the user identification is spoken, the user identification database may contain voice prints of authorized users, and

the identification comparator compares a voice print derived from the spoken user identification with voice prints in the user identification database.

Alternatively, or in addition, the user identification database may contain passwords of authorized users and the spoken user identification is a

5 password; the user identification database may optionally store the passwords as text derived from utterances using automatic speech recognition.

In a further embodiment, each speech-enabled terminal is coupled to a telephone line permitting a user to access the computer system by telephone.

Alternatively, or in addition, each speech-enabled terminal is associated with a  
10 separate local processor and a local automatic speech recognizer.

Also in a further embodiment, the system may additionally include a user verification comparator for comparing a user verification provided by the specific user with data stored in a user verification data base to verify the

identity of the specific user as an authorized user. In this embodiment, the  
15 system access provider provides computing access to the specific user only if the identity of the specific user has been verified as an authorized user by the verification comparator. The user verification may be spoken by the specific user, or alternatively may, for example, be entered by means of a keyboard or by other non-keyboard means.

20 In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method for providing access to a computer system that has an automatic speech recognizer and operates based on text inputs derived from automatic recognition of speech from a plurality of users provided via a plurality of speech-enabled terminals. In this embodiment, the access is  
25 provided to a specific user at a given one of the speech-enabled terminals. The method includes the following steps:

a. receiving a non-keyboard user identification provided by the specific user;

- b. comparing the user identification with data stored in a user identification data base to determine whether the specific user is an authorized user; and
- c. if the specific user has been determined to be an authorized user,
  - 5 i. loading a user-specific profile into the automatic speech recognizer that is pertinent to the specific user; and
  - ii. providing access to the system to the specific user via the given speech-enabled terminal. Further and related embodiments include the steps of receiving a user verification provided by the specific user and
- 10 comparing the user verification with data stored in a user verification data base to verify the identity of the specific user as an authorized user. In this embodiment, the step of providing access to the system to the specific user is performed only if the identity of the specific user has been verified as an authorized user. The user identification and the user verification may be
- 15 implemented as discussed above.

In another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method for providing access by a plurality of users to a computer system having automatic recognition of speech provided at a plurality of speech-enabled terminals. The method includes the steps of

- 20 a. generating a prompt for a spoken user identification over one of the plurality of speech-enabled terminals;
- b. comparing the spoken user identification with data stored in a user identification data base to determine if the user is an authorized user;
- c. providing an automatic speech recognizer for deriving text from
- 25 speech provided at a speech-enabled terminal;
- d. loading user-specific profiles pertinent to a user who has been determined to be authorized into the automatic speech recognizer; and

e. providing access to the system to a user who has been determined to be authorized.

### Brief Description of the Drawings

5       The foregoing aspects of the invention will be more readily understood by reference to the following detailed description taken with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a system to which the present invention is applicable;

10       Fig. 2 is a block diagram of a method in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 3 is a block diagram of a method, similar to that of Fig. 2, but also providing user verification; and

15       Fig. 4 is a block diagram of a preferred embodiment of a system in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention corresponding generally to the method of Fig. 3.

### Detailed Description of Specific Embodiments

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a system to which the present invention is  
20   applicable. A computer system 11 has a plurality of speech-enabled terminals 131, 132, ... 133 to accommodate up to an arbitrary number n of users. The computer system includes an automatic speech recognizer 12. The speech recognizer may be hard wired or it may be implemented as a process running in the computer system 11. The computer system may include a general  
25   purpose computer in which the process is defined by a computer program loaded into the computer. Each of the speech-enabled terminals 131, 132, ... 133 may be associated with a separate local processor; in such a configuration, each local processor may be associated with a local automatic speech

recognizer. The local automatic speech recognizer may, but need not necessarily, be implemented as a process running in the local processor. Each of the speech-enabled terminals 131, 132, ... 133 may also (or alternatively) be coupled to a telephone line permitting a user to access the computer system by telephone.

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of a method, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, for providing access by a plurality of users to a computer system having automatic recognition of speech provided at a plurality of speech-enabled terminals. In accordance with step 21, a non-keyboard user identification is provided over one of the speech-enabled terminals 131, 132, ... 133 of Fig. 1. The user identification may, for example, be spoken via microphone or be contained in a digitally encoded card presented by the user to a card reader. In accordance with step 22, the user identification is compared with data stored in a user identification data base to determine if the user is an authorized user. In one embodiment, the user identification database contains voice prints of authorized users, and in step 22, the comparison is between a voice print derived from the spoken user identification with voice prints in the user identification database. Alternatively, or in addition, the user identification database contains passwords of authorized users and the spoken user identification is a password; in such a case, the spoken input may be processed initially by a speech recognizer associated with the system. If in step 23, the comparison shows that there is not a match, and if in step 24 the match has not failed three times, the method permits the receipt of a new user identification in step 21, and the comparison of step 22 is reinitiated. If in step 24 the match has failed three times, the method terminates in step 27. If there is a match, then in step 25, a user-specific profile is loaded for automatic speech recognition of the user who has been determined to be authorized. In step 26,



access to the system is provided to the user who has been determined to be authorized. It will be appreciated that the level of access to the system may be controlled on a user-by-user basis in accordance with standard techniques known in the art for computer networks; thus the level of access by a user to  
5 the system may be subject to control, and the user will be given the level of access for which the system has been configured to provide to such user.

Fig. 3 is a block diagram of a method, similar to that of Fig. 2, but also providing user verification. Steps 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37 of Fig. 3 are comparable to steps 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27 of Fig. 2 previously  
10 discussed. However, if a user identification has been matched as a result of the comparison step 32, the method next proceeds with a user verification procedure. In step 381, the user verification is received. Such a verification may be spoken, or alternatively may be entered by keyboard, or may be provided by other non-keyboard arrangements. In step 382, the user  
15 verification is compared with data in a user verification data base. If there is a match in step 383, then the user-specific profile for automatic speech recognition is loaded into the recognizer (step 35), and computing access is provided to the user at the level for which the user is authorized (step 36). If there is no match, in step 384, the method tests to determine whether there  
20 have been three consecutive failed matches, and if so, the method terminates; otherwise processing is repeated back at step 31.

Fig. 4 is a block diagram of a preferred embodiment of a system in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention corresponding generally to the method of Fig. 3. The system includes speech-enabled  
25 terminals 41 from which may be received a spoken user identification. An automatic speech recognizer 46 has two modes of operation. In a first mode, the recognizer can operate in speaker-independent fashion to recognize a spoken user identification, which is fed to the identification comparator 42,

and a user verification, which is fed to verification comparator 43. In a second mode, the recognizer can operate in speaker-dependent fashion, utilizing additional information in the form of a user-specific profile for a user that has been identified by the identification comparator 42. (Alternatively, an applicable one of the user-specific profiles can be loaded after an unverified user identification has been made by the identification comparator 42, and the recognizer can operate in a speaker-dependent mode when feeding text to the verification comparator.) The comparators 42 and 43 may in fact be implemented in an integrated arrangement. For example, a user speaking his name (or a password uniquely identifying him) can provide a basis for both identification as well as verification using speaker-dependent templates. Further material on speech recognizer design may be found, for example, in Rabiner and Juang, *Fundamentals of Speech Recognition*, 1993, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

15 In operation, a user identification is received by the identification comparator 42. As described above in connection with previous figures, the identification can take many forms, including speech (which is here converted to text by the recognizer 46 to furnish an input to the comparator 42) or a digitally encoded card that is read by a card reader. A user identification that has been received by the identification comparator is stored in storage region 20 421. Thereafter identification comparator 42 compares the user identification that is stored in storage region 421 with user identification data in the identification data base that is stored in storage region 422. If the comparator 42 makes a successful match, then operation of the verification comparator 43 is triggered. Here the verification comparator receives a text input from the recognizer 46, and the input is stored in region 431 and compared with data in the verification data base that is stored in region 432.

If the verification comparator 43 determines that a match exists, then the profile loader 44 is caused to access and load one of the user-specific profiles (corresponding to the user who was matched by the comparators 42 and 43) stored in region 441 into the recognizer 46. In this fashion there is  
5 provided enhanced recognition of speech of the user who has been determined to be authorized. Finally, system access provider 45 is caused to provide access to the system to a user who has been determined to be authorized in accordance with the user authorization levels stored in region 451.

It is contemplated that the identification comparator 42, the  
10 verification comparator 43, the automatic speech recognition user-specific profile loader 44, and the system access provider 45 may (but need not necessarily) be implemented as processes running in a general purpose computer. Indeed, the processes need not be running on the same computer. For example, some or all of the system access provider 45 may be  
15 implemented on a server handling system access for all users of the system.

The present invention is also applicable to any speech recognition system, capable of speaker adaptation, that has more than one user. Each user of such a system has a potentially unique user-specific profile resulting from speaker adaptation. In a multi-user environment, such a profile is subject to  
20 the risk of undesirable modification as a result of adaptation to the speech of a person other than the user. An embodiment of the present invention prevents undesirable modification of a user-specific profile for speech recognition by requiring user identification before at least one of modifying a user-specific profile (for example, at the beginning of an adaptation session) or  
25 saving a modification of a user-specific profile (for example, at the end of an adaptation session).

As shown in Fig. 4, such an embodiment has a speech profile adaptor 442 in communication with the automatic speech recognizer 46, for

modifying the user-specific profiles 441. An adaptation controller 443 responsive to the identification comparator 42 controls the speech profile adaptor 442. When an authorized user has been identified by the identification comparator 42, the adaptation controller 443 enables operation  
5 of the speech profile adaptor 442 to permit updating of the user-specific profile. In a further embodiment, both user and identification and verification are required to enable the speech profile adaptor 442. The identification may be by the keyboard, or, as in the embodiments described previously, the identification may be a non-keyboard identification, as by  
10 speech or digitally encoded card.

The embodiments previously discussed for both identification and verification assume explicit actions taken by the user. More specifically, in the case of speech, the access control system uses voice print matching of user provided speech. In practice, such voice print matching can employ either  
15 text dependent verification, or text independent verification. Text dependent verification is the use of passwords and associated voice prints already described. Text independent verification operates with freely selected user speech input during normal use of the automatic speech recognition system. In a preferred embodiment, this implicit verification is implemented as a  
20 safeguard mechanism in combination with the explicit text dependent password and voice print technique.

With respect to Fig. 4, the text independent verification (*i.e.*, implicit verification) occurs in the background during system use as spoken text input progresses. Thus, after the user access system has recognized an authorized  
25 user and enabled system access as previously described, the identification comparator 42 and verification comparator 43 continue to monitor the operation of the automatic speech recognizer 46. As the recognizer 46 recognizes input speech as text within its recognition vocabulary, the

identification comparator 42 and/or verification comparator 43 compares the incoming speech signal associated with the recognized text to stored user identification data 422 and/or stored user verification data 432. If the characteristics of the incoming speech fail to match the stored characteristics  
5 for the recognized user within an acceptability threshold, the identification comparator 42 and/or verification comparator 43 then disables the system access provider 45. In addition (or as a consequence of disabling the system access provider 45), the speech profile adaptor 442 is prevented from modifying the user-specific speech profiles 441. Then, the automatic speech  
10 recognizer 46 operates only to perform the user verification and access method previously described.

This embodiment is especially useful in a situation where an authorized user has accessed the system and momentarily walks away. Text independent verification running in the application background prevents another, possibly  
15 unfriendly, user from invoking or altering the authorized user's speech profile. This effectively prevents use of the system by such an unauthorized person.

What is claimed is:

1. A computer system, for operation based on text inputs derived from automatic recognition of speech of a plurality of users providing spoken  
5 inputs, the system comprising:

- a. a plurality of speech-enabled terminals, each having an input for receiving speech from a user;
- b. an identification comparator for comparing a non-keyboard user identification provided by a specific user with data stored in a user  
10 identification data base to determine if the specific user is an authorized user;
- c. an automatic speech recognizer for deriving text from speech provided by the specific user at a given one of the speech-enabled terminals;
- d. a profile loader for loading a user-specific profile pertinent to the specific user into the automatic speech recognizer; and  
15 e. a system access provider for providing computing access, via the automatic speech recognizer, to the specific user if determined to be authorized by the identification comparator.

2. A computer system according to claim 1, wherein the non-  
20 keyboard user identification is spoken by the specific user.

3. A computer system according to claim 1, wherein the non-keyboard user identification is contained in a digitally encoded card presented by the specific user.  
25

4. A computer system according to claim 2, wherein the user identification database contains voice prints of authorized users, and the

identification comparator compares a voice print derived from the spoken user identification with voice prints in the user identification database.

5       5.     A computer system according to claim 2, wherein the user identification database contains passwords of authorized users and the spoken user identification is a password.

6.     A computer system according to claim 5, wherein the user identification database stores the passwords as text derived from utterances using automatic speech recognition.

10

7.     A computer system according to claim 1,

further comprising a user verification comparator for comparing a user verification provided by the specific user with data stored in a user verification data base to verify the identity of the specific user as an authorized user,

15       wherein the system access provider provides computing access to the specific user only if the identity of the specific user has been verified as an authorized user by the verification comparator.

8.     A computer system according to claim 2,

20       further comprising a user verification comparator for comparing a user verification provided by the specific user with data stored in a user verification data base to verify the identity of the specific user as an authorized user,

      wherein the system access provider provides computing access to the specific user only if the identity of the specific user has been verified as an  
25     authorized user by the verification comparator.

9.     A computer system according to claim 7, wherein the user verification is spoken by the specific user.

10. A computer system according to claim 1, wherein each speech-enabled terminal is coupled to a telephone line permitting a user to access the computer system by telephone.

5 11. A computer system according to claim 1, wherein each speech-enabled terminal is associated with a separate local processor and a local automatic speech recognizer.

12. A computer system according to claim 11, wherein each speech-enabled terminal is coupled to a telephone line permitting a user to access the computer system by telephone.

13. A computer system according to claim 1, wherein:  
the identification comparator further includes a text-independent  
15 comparator coupled to the automatic speech recognizer and to the system access provider for determining whether characteristics of the speech provided by the specific user fail to match characteristics of the data stored in the user identification database for the specific user within an acceptability threshold, and in the event of a determination of acceptable match, causing the system  
20 access provider to preclude computing access to the specific user.

14. A computer system according to claim 7, wherein:  
the user verification comparator further includes a text-independent  
comparator coupled to the automatic speech recognizer and to the system  
25 access provider for determining whether characteristics of the speech provided by the specific user fail to match characteristics of the data stored in the user identification database for the specific user within an acceptability threshold,



and in the event of a determination of acceptable match, causing the system access provider to preclude computing access to the specific user.

- 15        15.    A method for providing access to a computer system that has an automatic speech recognizer and operates based on text inputs derived from automatic recognition of speech from a plurality of users provided via a plurality of speech-enabled terminals, the access provided to a specific user at a given one of the speech-enabled terminals, the method comprising:
- 10            a. receiving a non-keyboard user identification provided by the specific user;
  - b. comparing the user identification with data stored in a user identification data base to determine whether the specific user is an authorized user; and
  - c. if the specific user has been determined to be an authorized user,  
15            i. loading a user-specific profile into the automatic speech recognizer that is pertinent to the specific user; and
  - ii. providing access to the system to the specific user via the given speech-enabled terminal.
- 20        16.    A method according to claim 15, further comprising before substep (ii) of step (c),
- i. receiving a user verification provided by the specific user and
  - ii. comparing the user verification with data stored in a user verification data base to verify the identity of the specific user as an  
25            authorized user; and wherein substep (ii) of step (c) is performed only if the identity of the specific user has been verified as an authorized user.

17. A method according to claim 15, wherein the non-keyboard user identification is spoken by the specific user.

18. A method according to claim 16, wherein the non-keyboard user  
5 identification is spoken by the specific user.

19. A method according to claim 15, wherein the non-keyboard user identification is contained in a digitally encoded card presented by the specific user.

10 20. A method according to claim 16, wherein the non-keyboard user identification is contained in a digitally encoded card presented by the specific user.

21. A method according to claim 16, wherein the user verification is  
15 spoken by the specific user.

22. A method according to claim 15, further comprising:  
d. monitoring operation of the automatic speech recognizer; and  
e. if characteristics of the speech provided by the specific user fail to  
20 match characteristics of the data stored in the user identification database for the specific user within an acceptability threshold, disabling the automatic speech recognizer.

23. A computer system, for operation based on text inputs derived  
25 from automatic recognition of speech of a plurality of users providing spoken inputs, the system comprising:

a. a speech-enabled terminal, having an input for receiving speech from a user;

- b. an identification comparator for comparing a non-keyboard user identification provided by a specific user with data stored in a user identification data base to determine if the specific user is an authorized user;
  - c. an automatic speech recognizer for deriving text from speech
- 5 provided by the specific user at the speech-enabled terminal;
- d. a speaker adaptor for modifying a user-specific profile, pertinent to the specific user, that is used with the automatic speech recognizer; and
  - e. an adaptation inhibitor for preventing at least one of modifying the user-specific profile or saving a modification of the user-specific profile unless
- 10 the specific user is determined to be authorized by the identification comparator.

24. A computer system according to claim 23, wherein the non-keyboard user identification is spoken by the specific user.

15

25. A computer system according to claim 23, wherein the non-keyboard user identification is contained in a digitally encoded card presented by the specific user.

20 26. A computer system according to claim 24, wherein the user identification database contains voice prints of authorized users, and the identification comparator compares a voice print derived from the spoken user identification with voice prints in the user identification database.

25 27. A computer system according to claim 24, wherein the user identification database contains passwords of authorized users and the spoken user identification is a password.

28. A computer system according to claim 27, wherein the user identification database stores the passwords as text derived from utterances using automatic speech recognition.

5        29. A computer system according to claim 23, further comprising a user verification comparator for comparing a user verification provided by the specific user with data stored in a user verification data base to verify the identity of the specific user as an authorized user,

          wherein the adaptation inhibitor prevents at least one of modifying the  
10 user-specific profile or saving a modification of the user-specific profile unless the identity of the specific user has been verified as an authorized user by the verification comparator.

          30. A computer system according to claim 23, wherein:  
15        the identification comparator further includes a text-independent comparator coupled to the automatic speech recognizer and to the system access provider for determining whether characteristics of the speech provided by the specific user fail to match characteristics of the data stored in the user identification database for the specific user within an acceptability threshold,  
20        and in the event of a determination of acceptable match, performing at least one of causing the system access provider to preclude computing access to the specific user and preventing the speaker adaptor from modifying the user-specific profile .

25        31. A computer system according to claim 29, wherein:  
          the user verification comparator further includes a text-independent comparator coupled to the automatic speech recognizer and to the system access provider for determining whether characteristics of the speech provided

by the specific user fail to match characteristics of the data stored in the user identification database for the specific user within an acceptability threshold, and in the event of a determination of acceptable match, performing at least one of causing the system access provider to preclude computing access to the  
5 specific user and preventing the speaker adaptor from modifying the user-specific profile .

32. A method, for providing access by a plurality of users to a computer system having automatic recognition of speech provided at a  
10 plurality of spoken inputs, the method comprising:
- a. generating a prompt for a spoken user identification over one of the plurality of spoken inputs;
  - b. comparing the spoken user identification with data stored in a user identification data base to determine if the user is an authorized user;
  - 15 c. providing an automatic speech recognizer for deriving text from speech provided at a speech-enabled terminal;
  - d. loading user-specific profiles pertinent to a user who has been determined to be authorized into the automatic speech recognizer; and
  - e. providing access to the system to a user who has been determined to  
20 be authorized.

1/4

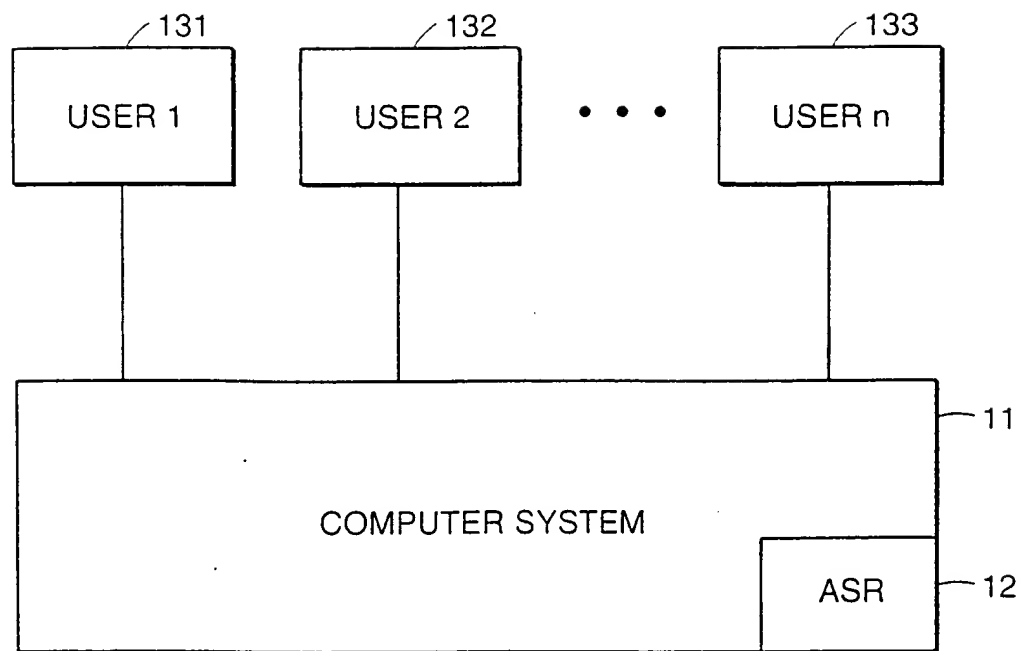


FIG. 1

2/4

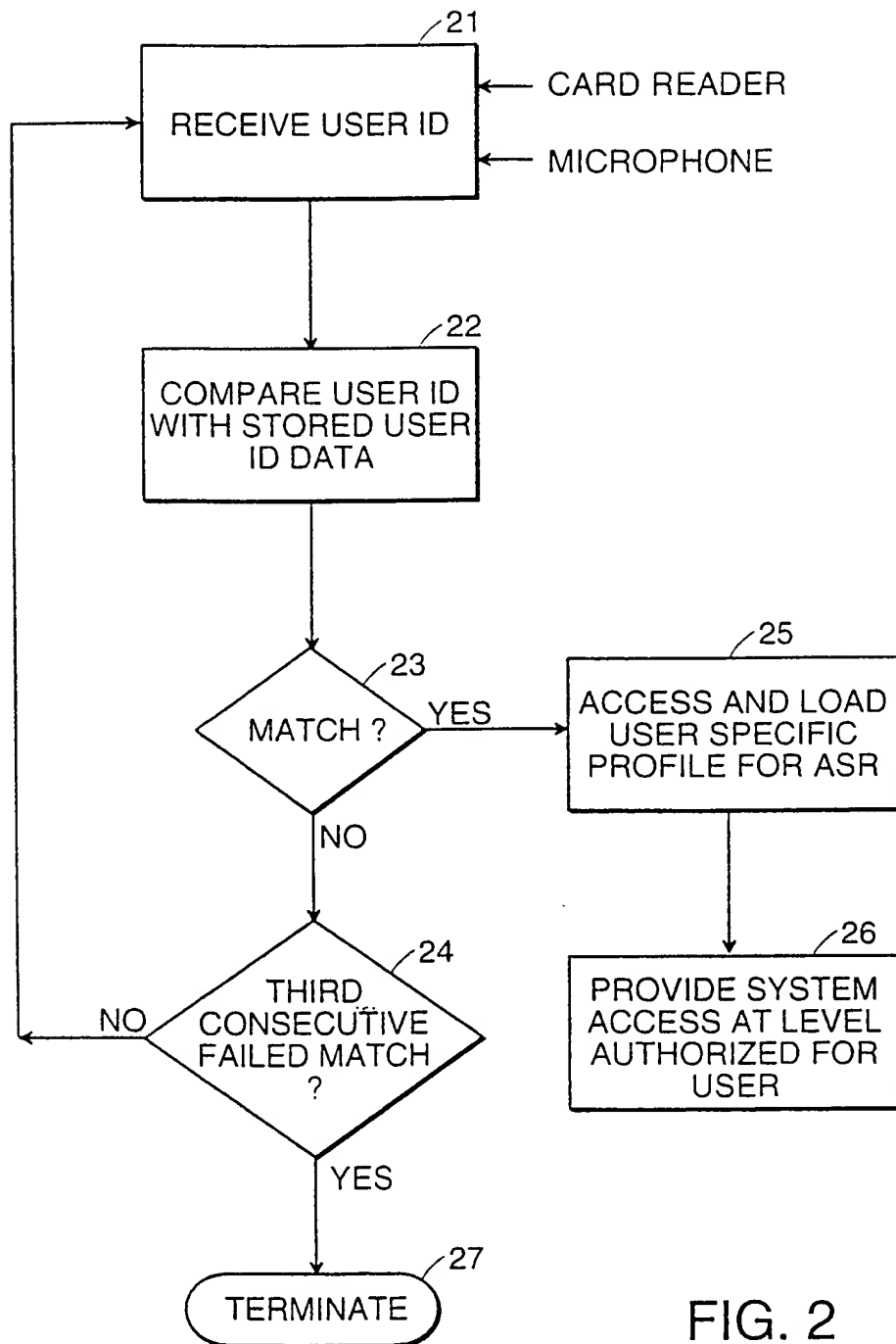


FIG. 2

3/4

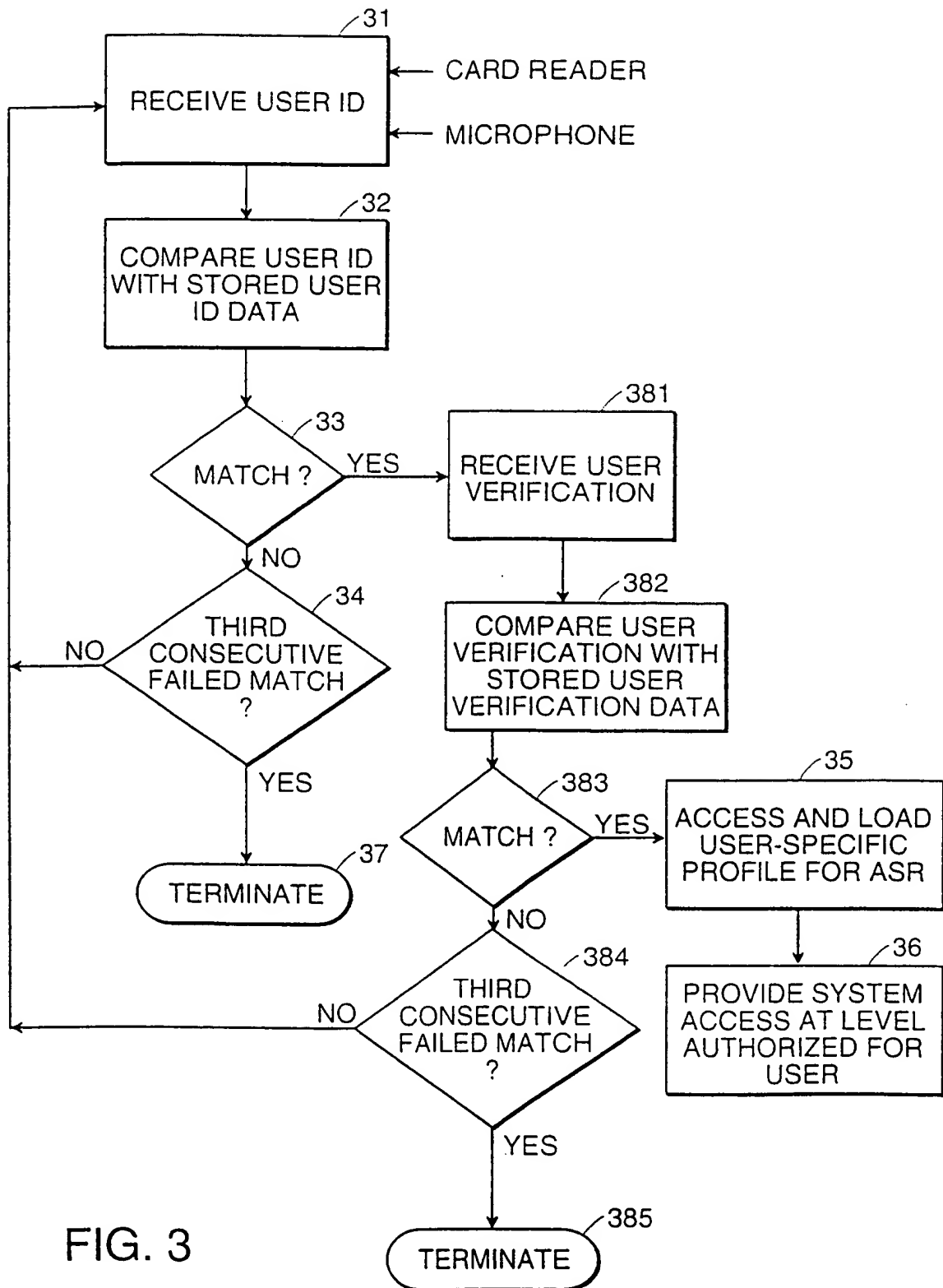


FIG. 3



4/4

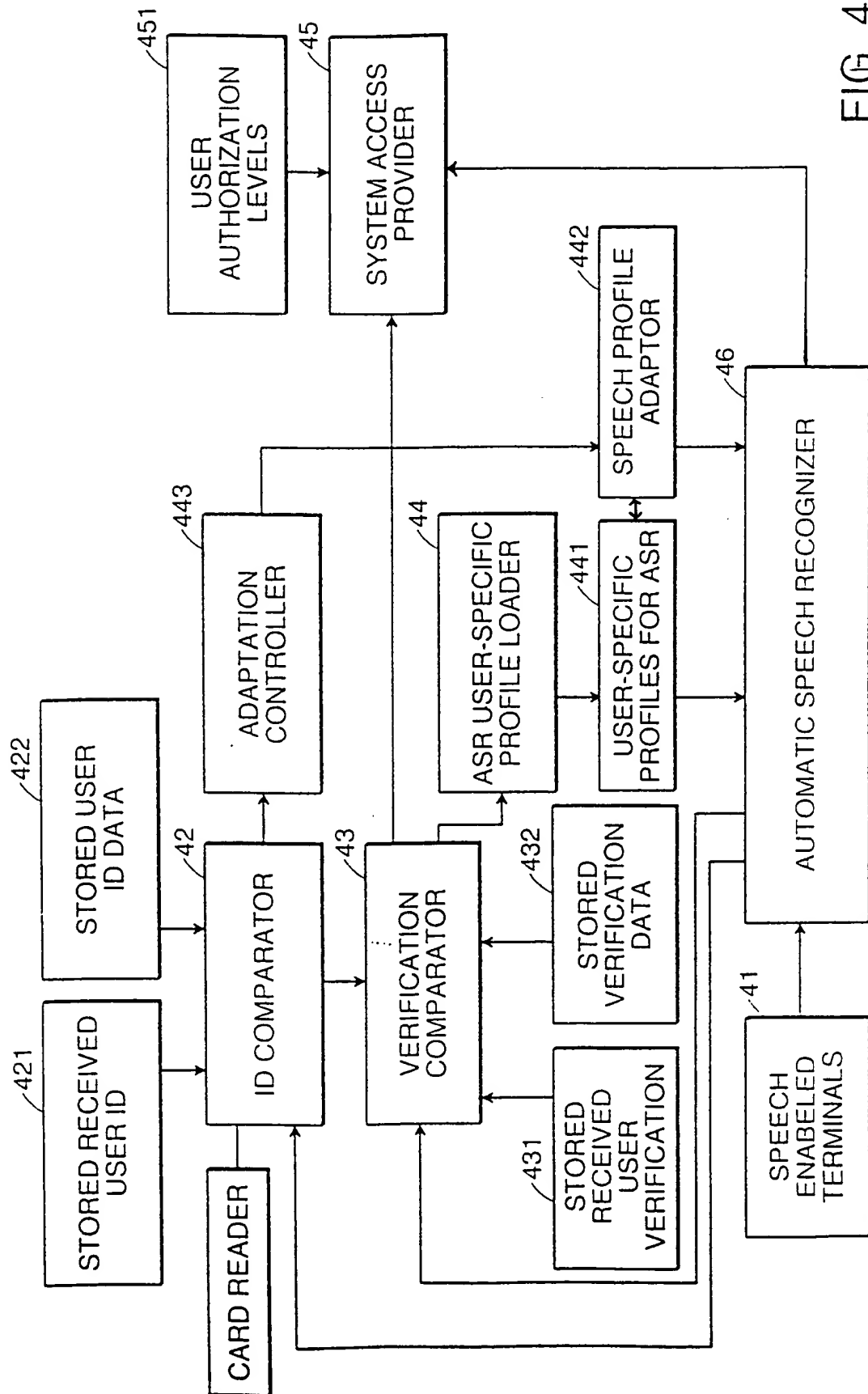


FIG. 4

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IB 98/01110

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC 6 G06F1/00 G06F3/16 G10L5/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 G06F G10L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 95 18441 A (AT & T CORP) 6 July 1995	1, 15, 23, 32
A	see column 1, line 1 - line 7 see column 4, line 18 - column 10, line 19; figures 1-6	2-14, 16-22, 24-31
A	--- EP 0 621 532 A (AT & T CORP) 26 October 1994 see abstract see column 1, line 15 - column 3, line 5; figures	1-32
A	--- EP 0 622 780 A (AT & T CORP) 2 November 1994 see column 1, line 1 - column 2, line 44 --- -/--	1, 15, 25, 32

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 October 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

03/11/1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Moens, R

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

national Application No  
PCT/IB 98/01110

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 195 15 123 C (ORGA KARTENSYSTEME GMBH) 22 August 1996 -----	1, 15, 25, 32

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (July 1992)

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IB 98/01110

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9518441 A	06-07-1995	AU 673480 B AU 1445395 A CA 2156610 A CN 1118633 A EP 0686297 A JP 8507392 T NZ 278267 A	07-11-1996 17-07-1995 06-07-1995 13-03-1996 13-12-1995 06-08-1996 27-07-1997
EP 0621532 A	26-10-1994	US 5430827 A CA 2116256 A,C	04-07-1995 24-10-1994
EP 0622780 A	02-11-1994	US 5677989 A CA 2118878 A,C CN 1099893 A JP 7037098 A	14-10-1997 31-10-1994 08-03-1995 07-02-1995
DE 19515123 C	22-08-1996	NONE	

Form PCT/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (July 1992)